

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 3 with the following amended paragraph.

Brief Description of the Drawings

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 4 with the following amended paragraph.

The foregoing and other objects and features of the invention will become more apparent upon a consideration of the following description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings wherein:

Add the following new paragraph after page 3, line 11.

Figs. 2-4 are schematic illustrations depicting data flows in accordance with embodiments of the present invention.

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 12 with the following amended paragraph.

Description of One Specific Preferred Embodiments of the Invention

Add the following new paragraphs after page 17, line 3

Figs. 2-4 are schematic illustrations depicting data flows in accordance with embodiments of the present invention.

As shown in Figure 2, a method according to an embodiment of the present invention for disseminating information relating to litigation pending in a plurality of courts of law includes the following steps. Records in a plurality of courts of law are periodically reviewed to obtain data relating to lawsuits filed in each of the plurality of courts of law (step S10), and the data obtained from the records in each court of law of the plurality of courts of law is transmitted to a database (step S12). The database is accessed with terminals which communicate with the database by a network (step S14), and at least a portion of the data is transmitted from the database over the network to the terminals which access the database (step S16).

As shown in Figure 3, a method according to another embodiment for disseminating information relating to litigation pending in a plurality of courts of law includes the following steps. Records in each court of law of the plurality of courts of law are viewed and manually copied (step S20). The data copied from the records in each court of law is hand delivered to a database (step S22), and that data is electronically entered into and stored in a memory at the database (step S23). There is determined a numerical relationship or ratio indicative of the data in the database (step S24), and data indicative of the relationship is transmitted from the database to a terminal (step S26).

DS As shown in Figure 4, a method according to another embodiment for disseminating information relating to litigation pending in a plurality of courts of law includes the following steps. Records in a plurality of courts of law are periodically reviewed to electronically read data stored at each of the plurality of courts of law (step S30), and the data obtained from the records is electronically transmitted from each of the plurality of courts of law to the database (step S32). The database is accessed with terminals which communicate with the database by a network (step S34), and at least a portion of the data is transmitted from the database over the network to the terminal (step S36).
